

October 3, 2018

Mr. Charles Tyler
Telecommunications Access Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room 5-A452
Washington, DC 20554

**In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors,
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45**

Dear Mr. Tyler:

I am writing to nominate J. Todd Finnell to serve as a director for the Universal Service Administrative Company as a representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts pursuant to Section 54.501 of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) rules.

Todd Finnell currently serves as the Superintendent of Schools for Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE), a role to which he was elected in 2014. Prior roles at ICOE include Assistant Superintendent of Technology Services, Chief Executive Officer of the California K-12 High Speed Network (K12HSN), Executive Director of TechSETS, Senior Director of Learning Technologies, and Teacher/Counselor in Alternative Education. The K12HSN is a program operated by ICOE under grant from California Department of Education which supports network access for school districts throughout California.

Dr. Finnell holds a Professional Clear Administrative Services Credential, a Pupil Personnel Services Credential, a Multiple Subject Professional Clear Teaching Credential, a certificate as a Certified Chief Technology Officer, and a certificate from the ACSA Personnel (HR) Administrators Academy. Dr. Finnell received his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership (Ed.D.) in 2014 and his Master of Arts (M.A.) in Education 1995.

In California, county offices of education serve as regional support agencies, much like Boards of Cooperative Educational Service (BOCES) in other states. Imperial County Office of Education operates an \$120+M annual budget and has 600+ employees. Dr. Finnell also possesses experience teaching in elementary classrooms, instructing university students in a teacher preparation program, and serving as Vice President for Student Services, Technology and Research for Imperial Community College District (2010-2014).

Relying on the experience gained at ICOE in forming and managing the Imperial Valley Telecommunications Authority – a joint powers authority-- (1999-current), Dr. Finnell led the ICOE's effort to win the role of administering the K12HSN from the California Department of Education in 2004. The program administers K-12's participation in the California Research and Education Network operated by the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC). Once awarded, in September 2004, Todd Finnell and the Imperial County Office of Education have led this important work on behalf of the California Department of Education effectively, both from a budgetary perspective and from a service delivery perspective.

By way background, my organization, CENIC, connects California to the world—advancing education and research statewide by providing the world-class network essential for innovation, collaboration and economic growth. This nonprofit organization operates the California Research and Education Network (CalREN), a high-capacity network designed to meet the unique requirements of over 20 million users at 12,000 institutions, including the vast majority of K-20 students together with educators, researchers and others at vital public-serving institutions. CENIC's Charter Associates are part of the world's largest education system; they include the California K-12 system, California Community Colleges, the California State University system, California's Public Libraries, the University of California system, Stanford, Caltech, USC, and the Naval Postgraduate School.

As is revealed by his success in county-wide and state-wide efforts, Dr. Finnell is skilled at working collaboratively across agencies. Dr. Finnell has received many awards including the Innovation in Technology Award from the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, the Exemplary Research and Practice Award from San Diego State University, the Brian L. Talbott Award for Innovative Technology and Collaboration, the Technology in Learning Leadership Award from CUE (formerly Computer Using Educators), and the Gigabit or Bust award from CENIC. He has served on the CENIC board, and the boards of multiple other "technology in education" organizations.

Todd Finnell has keynoted and presented on many topics including "EBS Deployments by Educators" at the National Educational Broadband Service Association conference and "Getting Technology Right: The Current Challenges and Innovations in Education Technology" for the California County Boards of Education Fall Conference.

The benefits derived from the federal telecommunications subsidy programs by schools nationwide are critically important. Todd Finnell has demonstrated that he understands and cares about the role of these programs and their value to education. He also understands complex budgets, project implementation and the challenges of leading large staffs. If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Todd Finnell will make a superb member of the Board of Directors for the Universal Service Administrative Company.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Louis Fox', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Louis Fox
President & CEO

Enclosure: Resume of J. Todd Finnell